

# TABLE 18

The table below presents a 29-year record of the differences between the July projection and the final estimate. Using world wheat production as an example, changes between the July projection and the final estimate have averaged 13.8 million tons (2.5 percent) and ranged from -34.6 to 23.7 million tons. The July projection has been below the final 17 times and above the final 12 times.

## RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS

COMMODITY AND REGION	PROJECTION AND FINAL ESTIMATES, 1981/82 - 2008/09 1/					
	Difference		Lowest	Highest	Below	Above
	Average	Average	Difference		Final	Final
	Percent	---Million metric tons---			Number of years 2/	
<b>WHEAT</b>						
World	2.5	13.8	-34.6	23.7	17	12
U.S.	2.8	1.7	-6.2	5.4	13	16
Foreign	2.7	13.2	-32.0	21.1	18	11
<b>COARSE GRAINS 3/</b>						
World	2.4	20.8	-68.4	53.6	16	13
U.S.	6.7	15.2	-32.6	57.7	14	15
Foreign	2.0	12.3	-37.9	28.2	14	15
<b>RICE (Milled)</b>						
World	2.1	7.4	-24.0	14.2	19	10
U.S.	3.9	0.2	-0.5	0.4	16	11
Foreign	2.1	7.4	-24.3	14.3	19	10
<b>SOYBEANS</b>						
World	4.2	6.5	-15.5	26.9	13	16
U.S.	5.6	3.6	-9.8	11.7	15	14
Foreign	6.9	6.0	-12.8	25.8	15	14
	---Million 480-lb. bales---					
<b>COTTON</b>						
World	4.2	3.8	-14.9	10.3	18	11
U.S.	9.1	1.5	-5.2	3.6	18	11
Foreign	4.0	3.0	-12.1	10.5	15	13
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	-----Million bushels-----					
CORN	7.2	546	-1172	2034	17	12
SORGHUM	13.4	76	-213	176	16	13
BARLEY	7.0	25	-87	62	10	18
OATS	10.1	24	-39	144	5	23

1/ The final estimate for 1981/82-2008/09 is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year.

2/ May not total 28 if projection was the same as the final.

3/ Includes corn, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, millet, and mixed grain.